

Great Storms of the Great Lakes

A look at some of the infamous “Gales of November”, and the punishing toll they can exact on the freighters that ply the waters of the Great Lakes.

National Weather Service Gaylord MI
Winter Talk Series 2010

Great Storms of the Great Lakes

Outline:

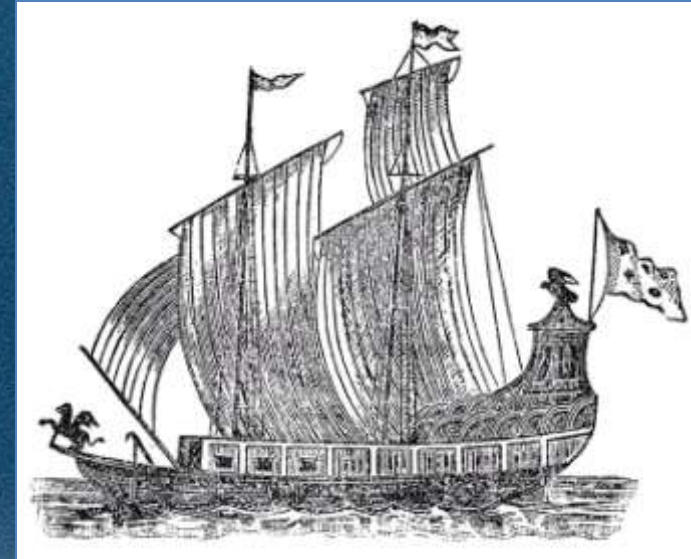
The Great Lakes Hurricane: 7-10 November 1913

Armistice Day Storm: 11 November 1940

Sinking of the *Carl D. Bradley*: 18 November 1958

Loss of the *Daniel J. Morrell*: 29 November 1966

Wreck of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*: 10 November 1975



French trading vessel *Le Griffon*-- one of the first shipwrecks on the Great Lakes.

1940 Armistice Day Storm aboard the *Charles M. Schwab*



1913 Great Lakes Hurricane on Lake Michigan



Pilothouse of the *Carl D. Bradley*



Great Storms of the Great Lakes: Great Lakes Hurricane of 1913: 7-10 November 1913

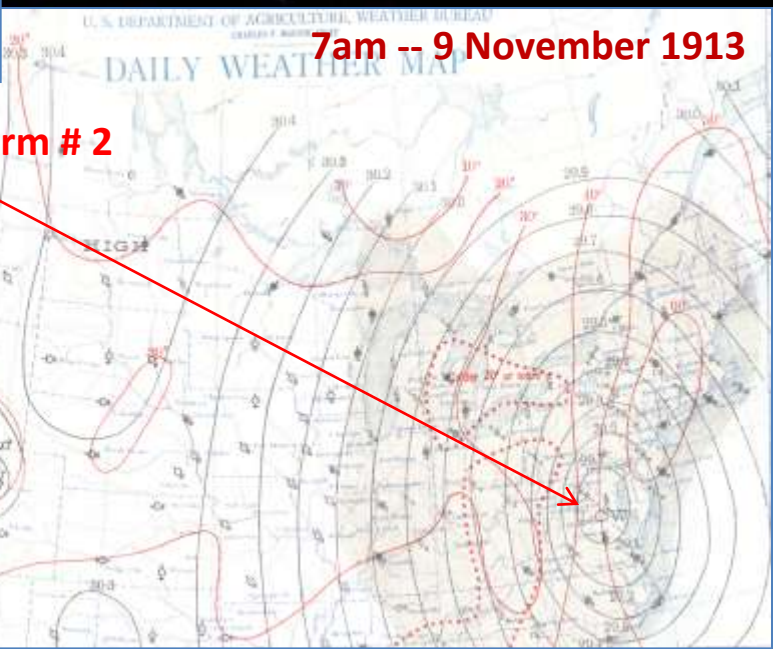
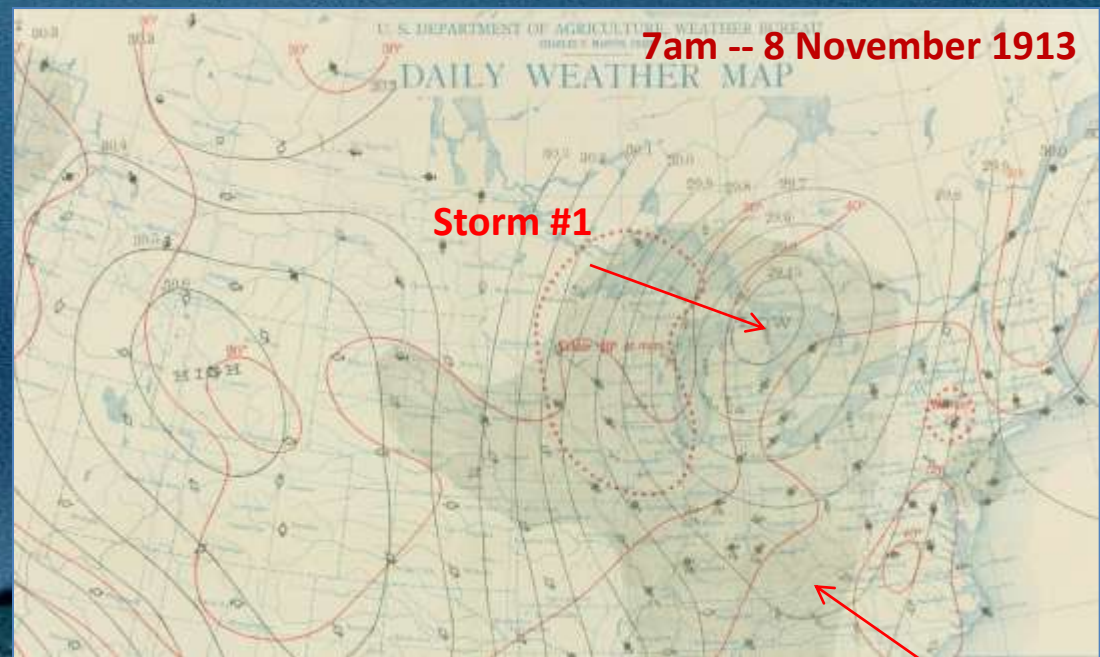
The Great Lakes Hurricane: 7-10 November 1913

- At least 258 lives lost on the Great Lakes.
- Twelve ships sank, 30 other vessels crippled.
- Eight out of 18 ships battling the storm on Lake Huron sank (*Wexford, Argus, John A. McGean, Hydrus, Isaac M. Scott, Regina, James C. Carruthers, Charles S. Price*). 187 lives lost.



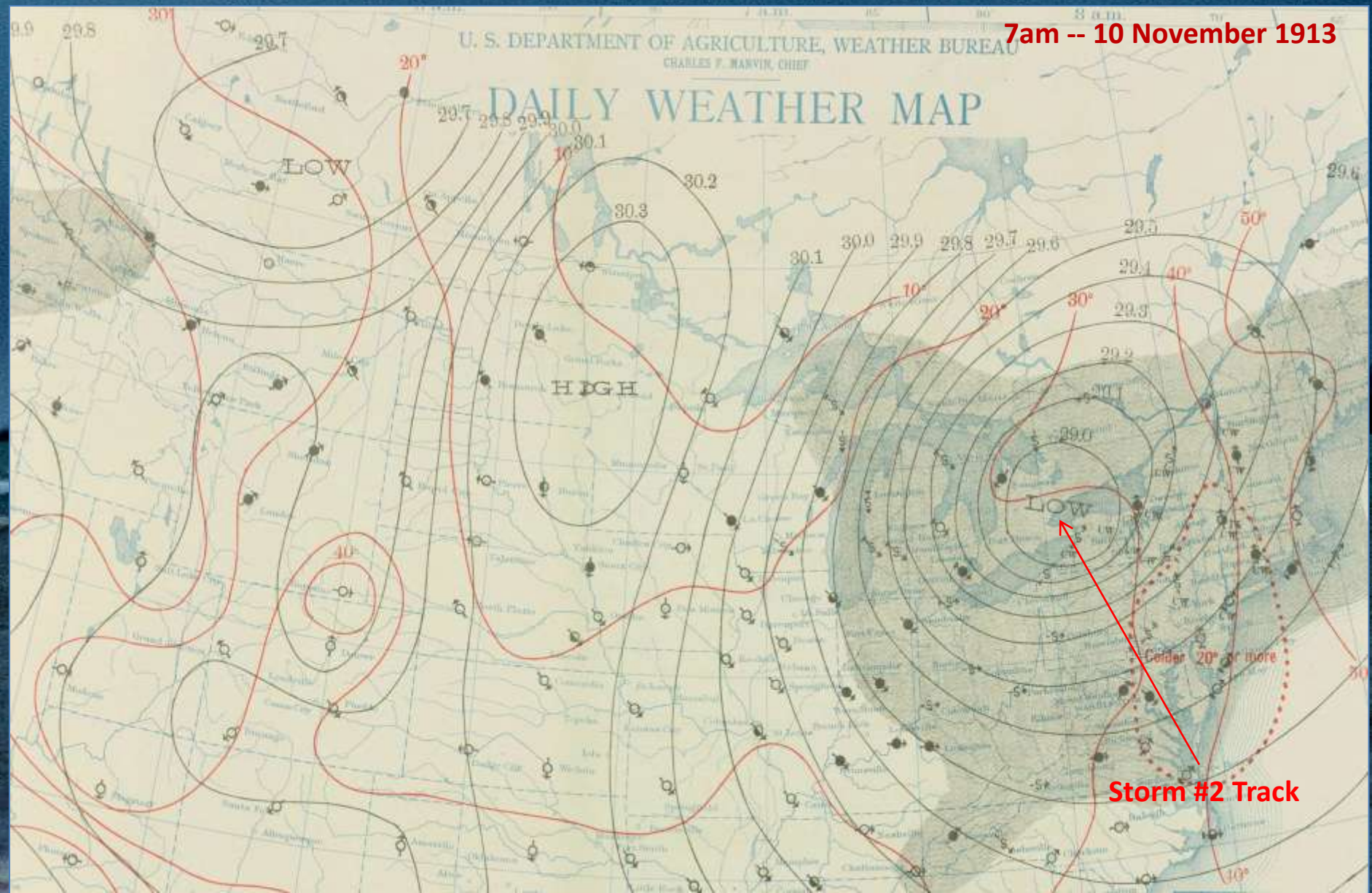
Great Storms of the Great Lakes: Great Lakes Hurricane of 1913

Daily Weather Maps:



Great Storms of the Great Lakes: Great Lakes Hurricane of 1913

Daily Weather Maps:



A black and white photograph showing a large, dark, cylindrical object, possibly a shipwreck or a large barrel, partially submerged in choppy water. The object has a textured surface with some visible structural lines or rivets. The water is turbulent, with white foam visible near the base of the object.

The *LC Waldo*, run around on the rocks off the Keweenaw Peninsula

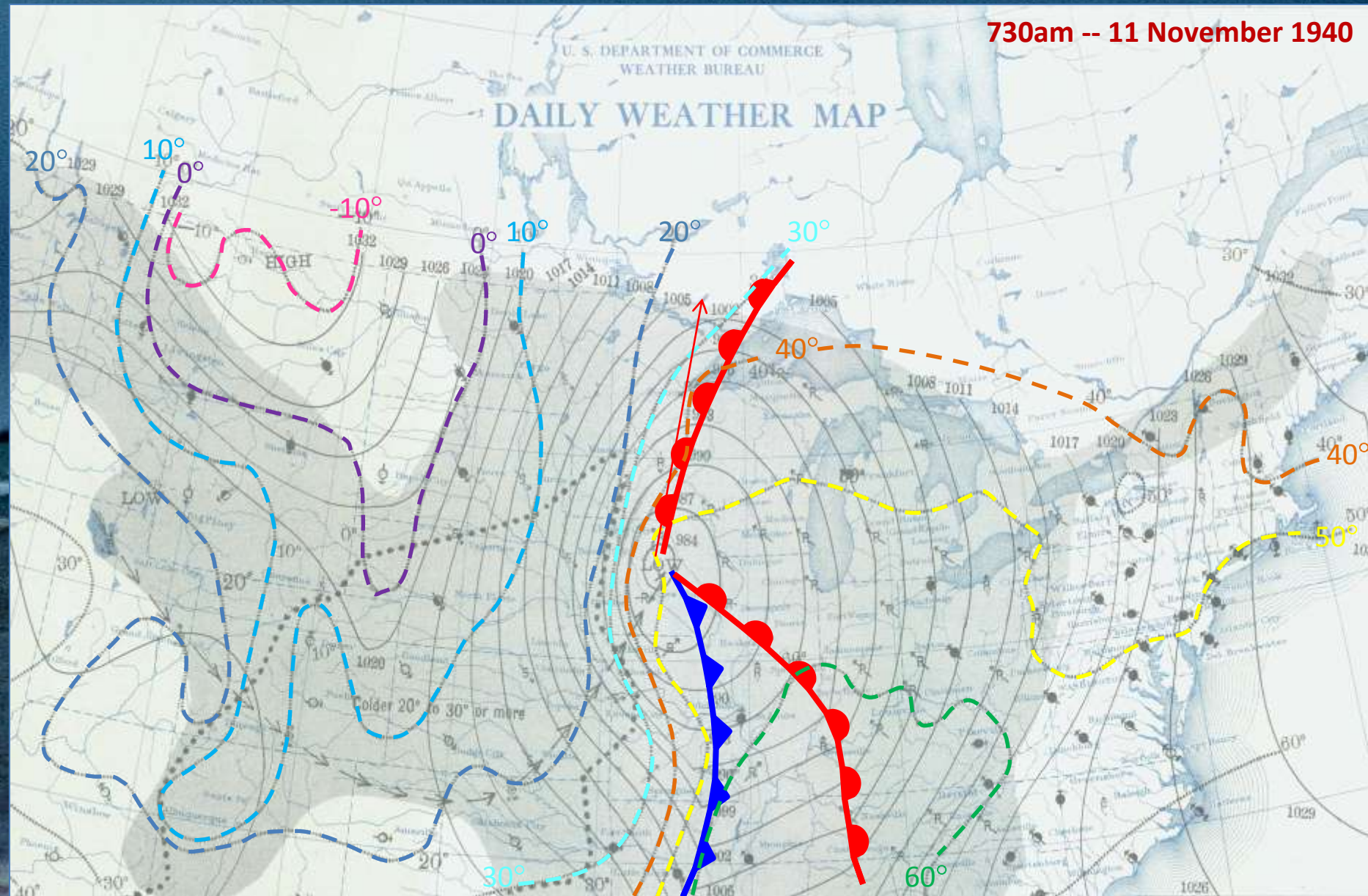
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"No lake master can recall in all his experience a storm of such unprecedented violence with such rapid changes in the direction of the wind and its gusts of fearful speed...It was unusual and unprecedented and it may be centuries before such a combination of forces may be experienced again."

Lake Carriers Association report (1913)

Great Storms of the Great Lakes: *The 1940 Armistice Day Storm*

Daily Weather Map:



730am -- 11 November 1940

Great Storms of the Great Lakes: *The Armistice Day Storm: 11 November 1940*



Three large freighters and two smaller boats fell victim to the storm. The three freighters all sank in the same approximate area between Big Sable Point and Little Sable Point.



The *William B. Davock* sank a couple miles off Little Sable Point, its rudder hard to port as if rolled by a giant wave. All 32 hands were lost.



The *Novadoc*, heading northbound and running close to the Michigan shoreline, was caught by the sudden wind shift to the southwest. This pushed the freighter aground off Juniper Beach between Little Sable Point and Pentwater, where the pounding waves broke the ship in half. Seventeen crew members were rescued by the fishing tug *Three Brothers* after battling snow and icy winds for 36 hours; two men were swept overboard.



The Canadian freighter *Anna C. Minch*, bound for Chicago, broke in two and sank south of Pentwater near the *Davock*, with the loss of her entire crew of 24.

Great Storms of the Great Lakes: *The Armistice Day Storm: 11 November 1940*

The Plight of the Car Ferry *City of Flint* 32

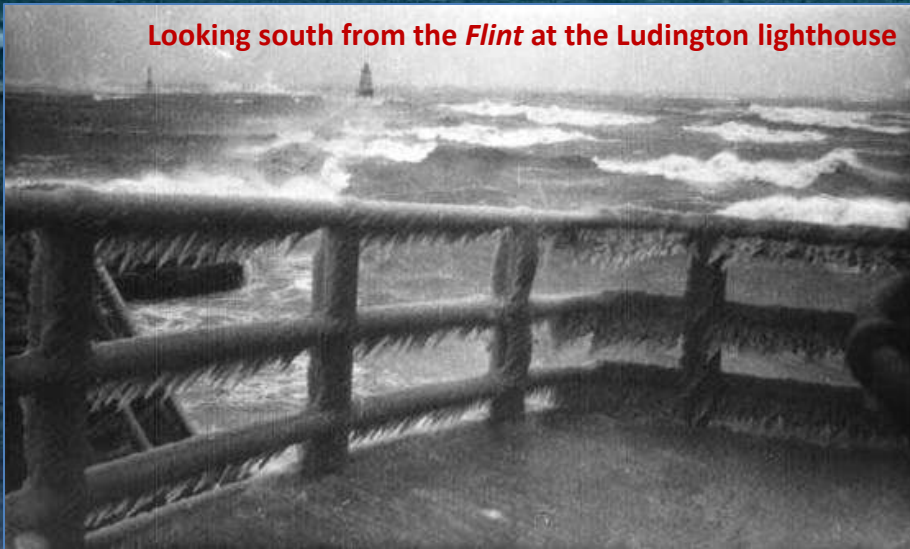
The *City of Flint* on the beach at Ludington--12 November 1940



Coast Guard stringing up a life buoy



Looking south from the *Flint* at the Ludington lighthouse

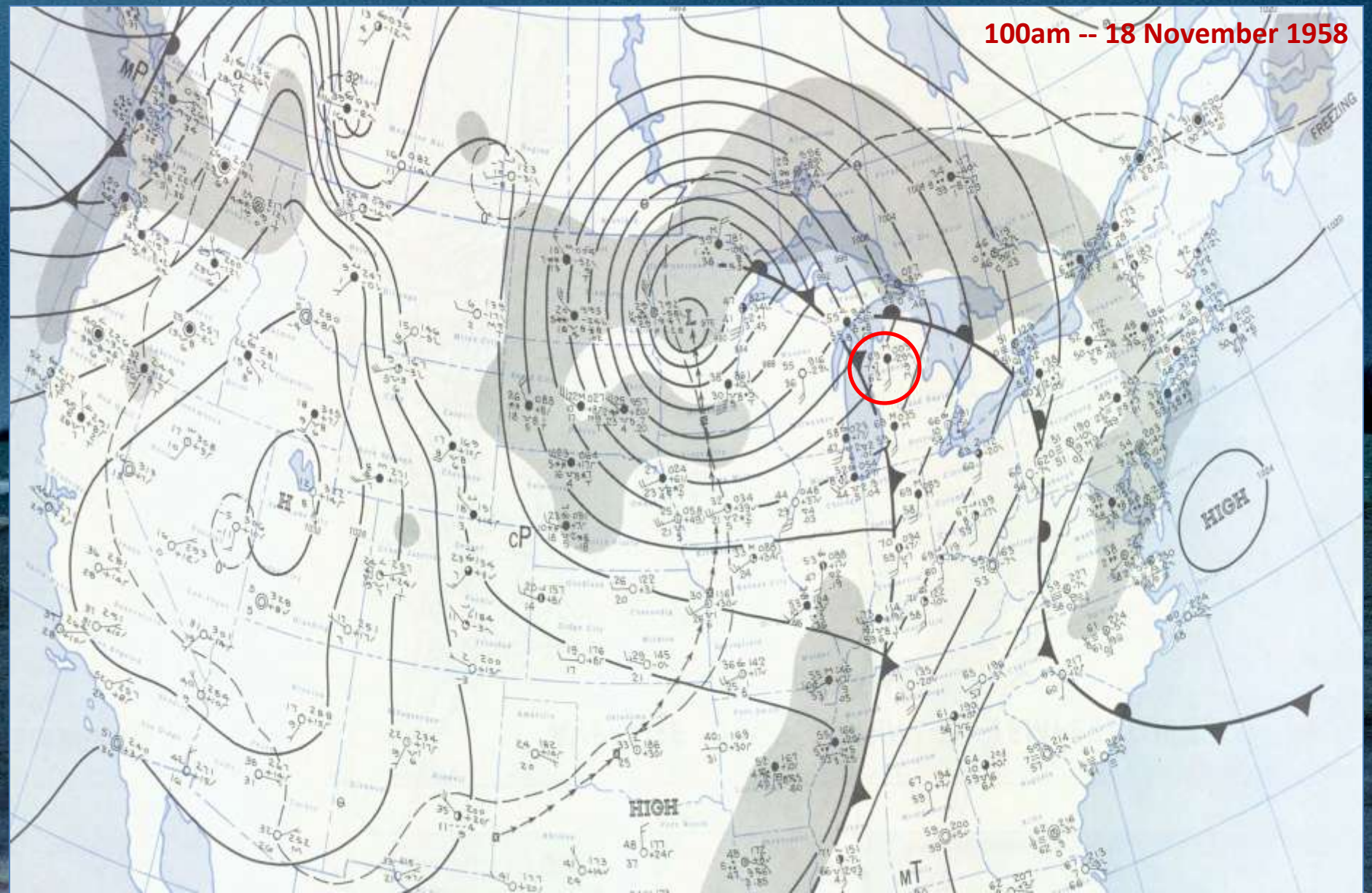


Going out to retrieve bodies from the *Davock*



Great Storms of the Great Lakes: The Sinking of the Carl D. Bradley: 18 November 1958

The Sinking of the Carl D. Bradley: 18 November 1958



Great Storms of the Great Lakes: *The Sinking of the Carl D. Bradley: 18 November 1958*

Track of the *Carl D. Bradley*



“Mayday!
Mayday!
Mayday!

This is the *Carl D. Bradley*. Our position is approximately 12 miles southwest of Gull Island. We are in serious trouble. We are breaking in two and sinking. Any ships in the vicinity, please come to our aid...”

Great Storms of the Great Lakes: *The Sinking of the Carl D. Bradley: 18 November 1958*

Sinking of the Carl D. Bradley

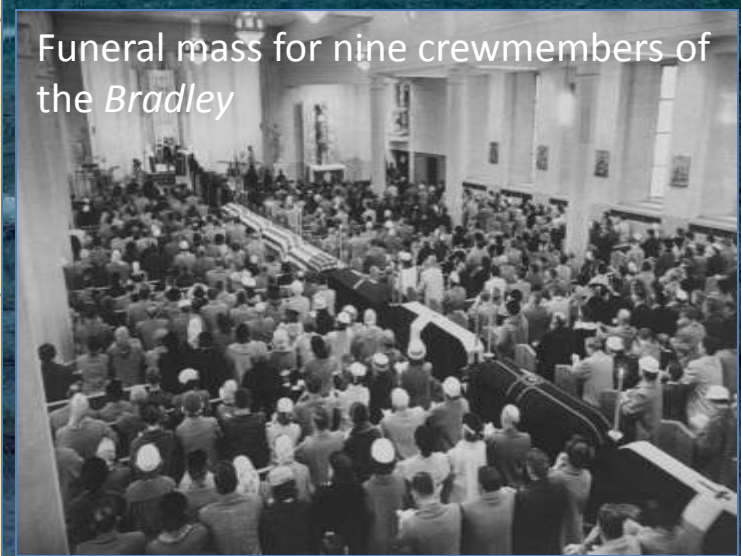


Great Storms of the Great Lakes: *The Sinking of the Carl D. Bradley: 18 November 1958*

Survivors...



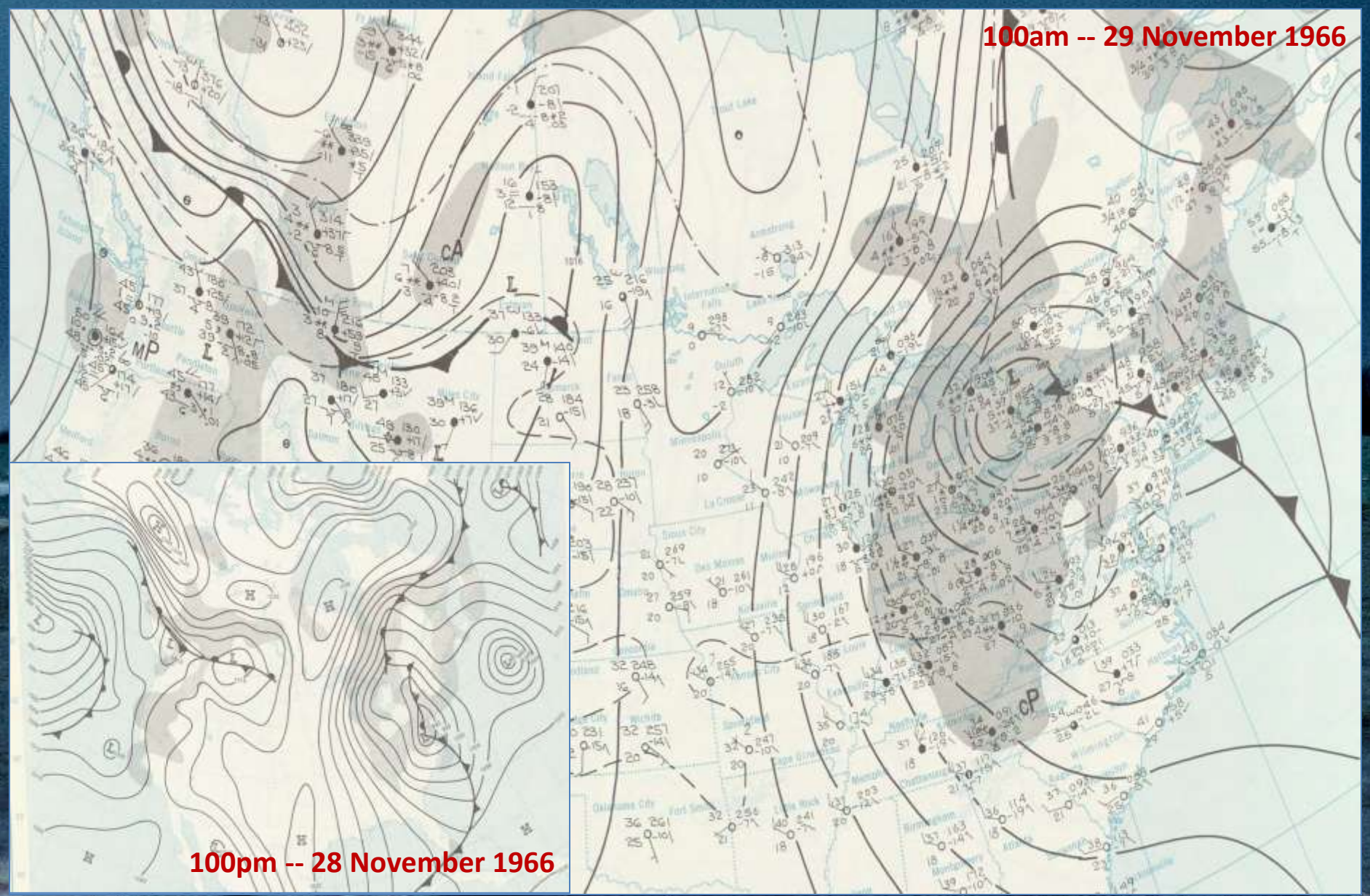
Life Magazine



Life Magazine

Great Storms of the Great Lakes: *Loss of the Daniel J. Morrell: 29 November 1966*

Loss of the *Daniel J. Morrell*: 29 November 1966



Great Storms of the Great Lakes: Loss of the Daniel J. Morrell: 29 November 1966

Track of the *Daniel J. Morrell*



Last known photo of the *Daniel J. Morrell*, on the St. Clair River downbound for Buffalo — 25 November 1966...3 nights prior to her sinking on Lake Huron.

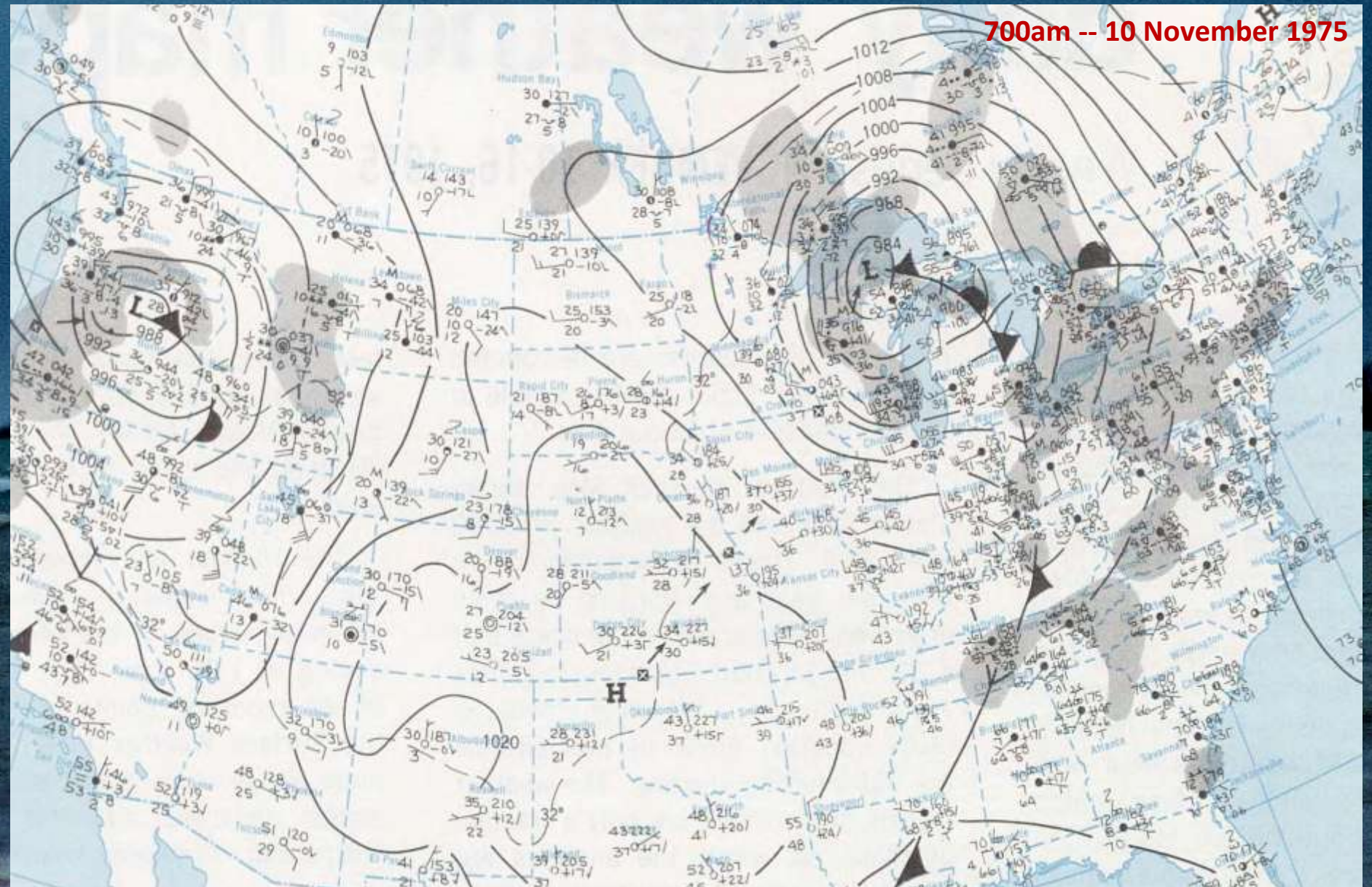
Great Storms of the Great Lakes: *Loss of the Daniel J. Morrell: 29 November 1966*

A lone survivor...



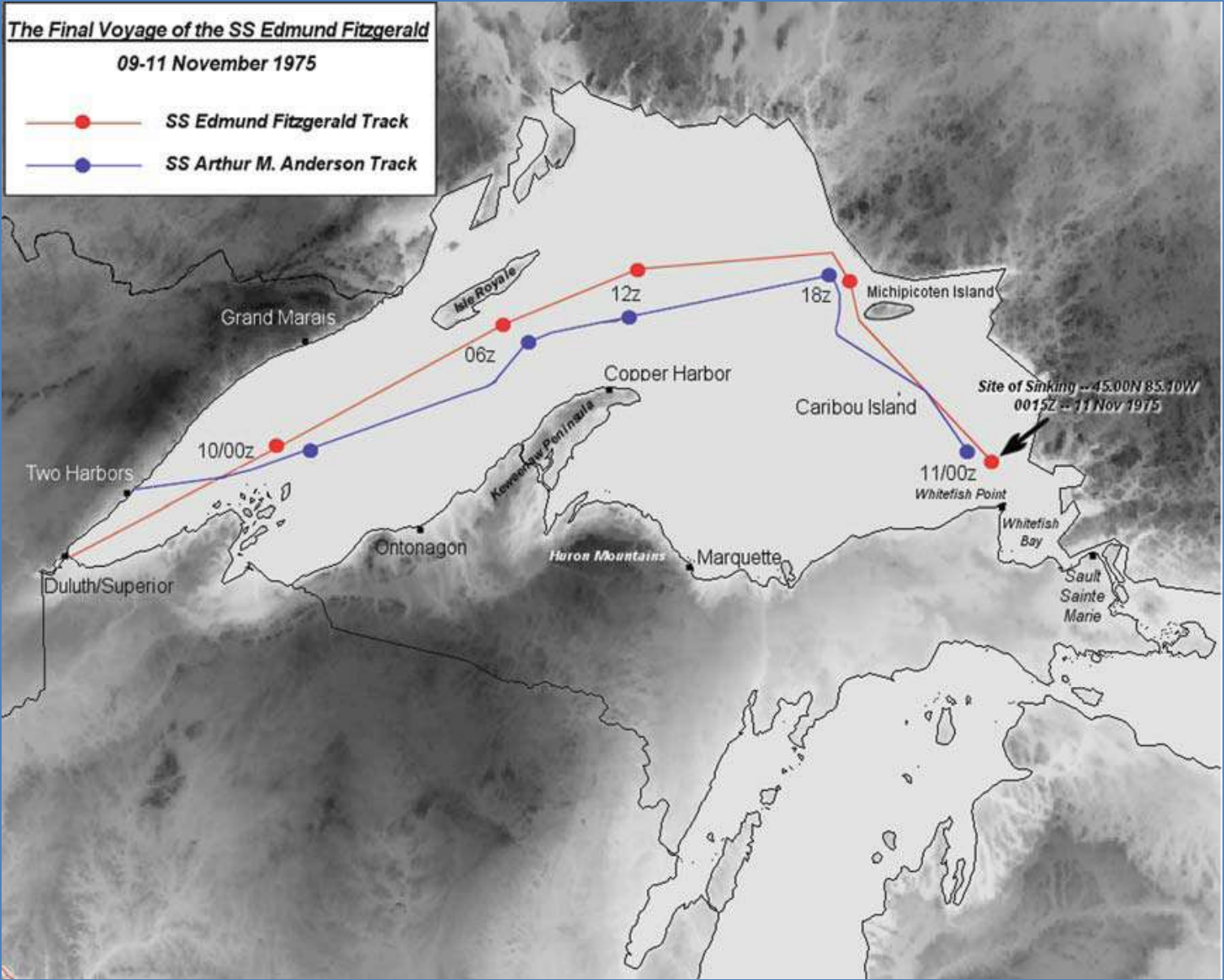
Great Storms of the Great Lakes: The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald: 10 November 1975

Daily Weather Map:



Great Storms of the Great Lakes: *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald: 10 November 1975*

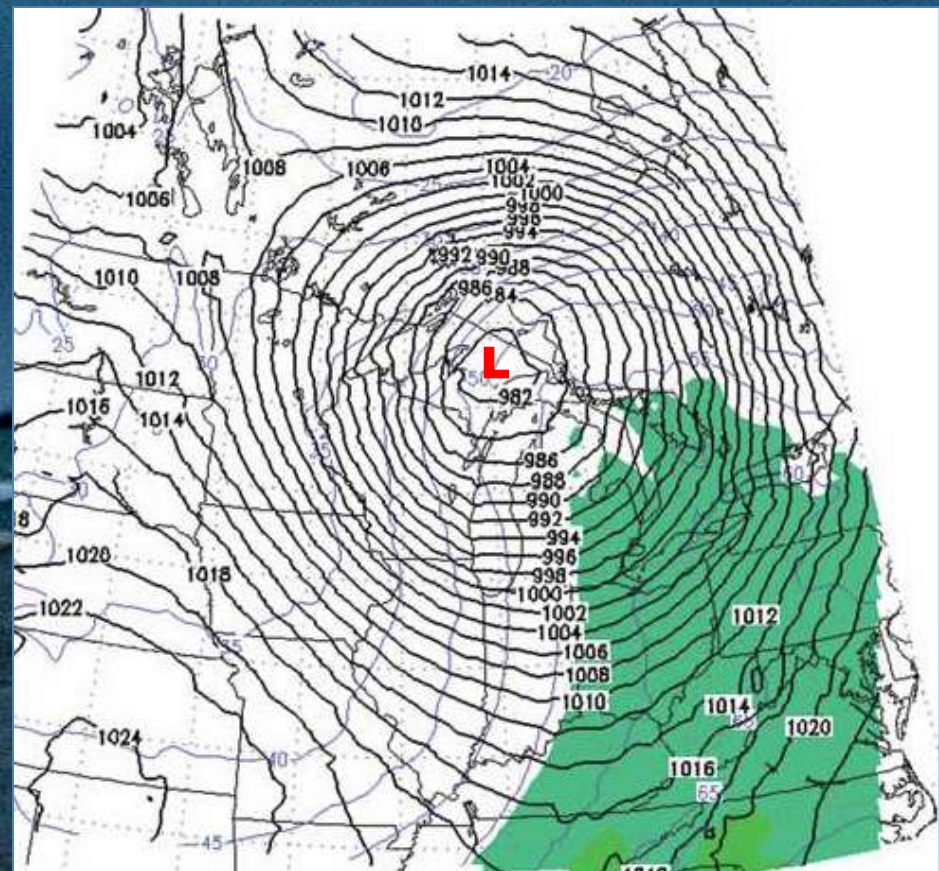
Track of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*:



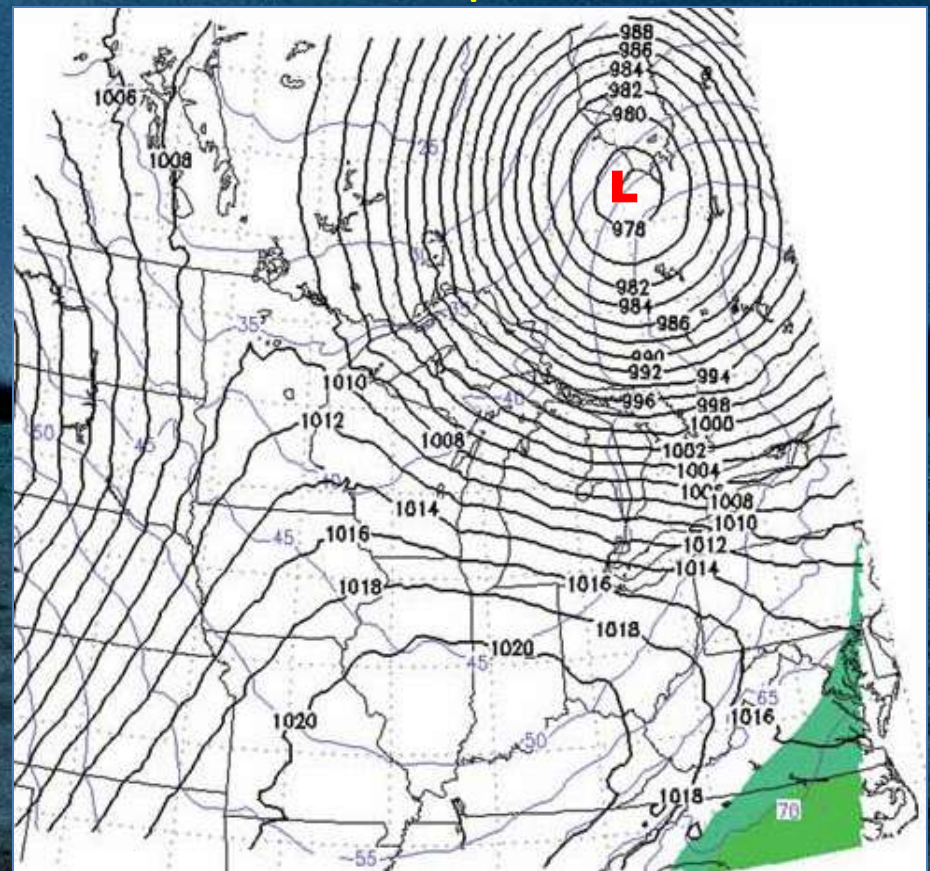
Great Storms of the Great Lakes: *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald: 10 November 1975*

Weather conditions during the afternoon and evening of 10 November: Surface Pressure

700am -- 10 November 1975



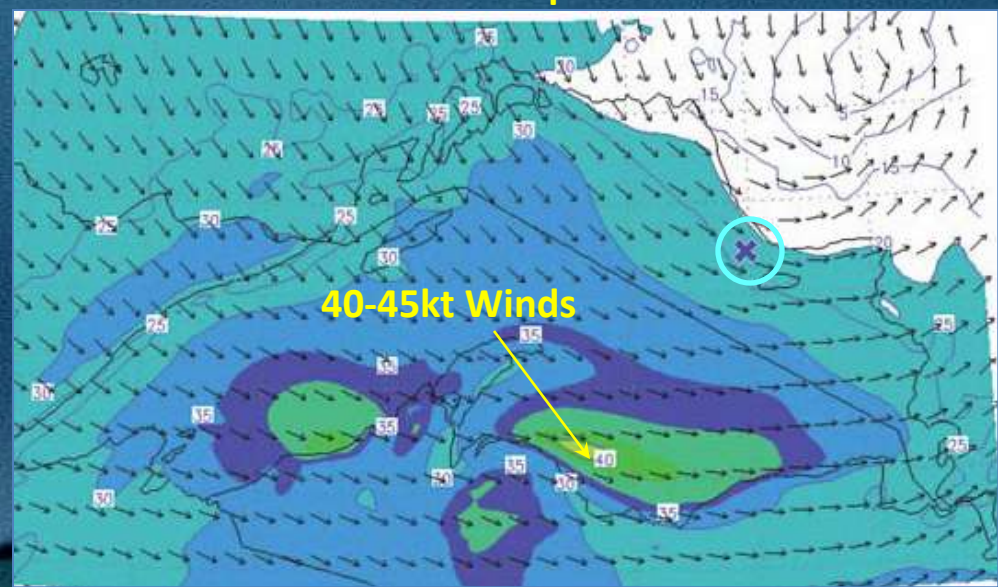
700pm -- 10 November 1975



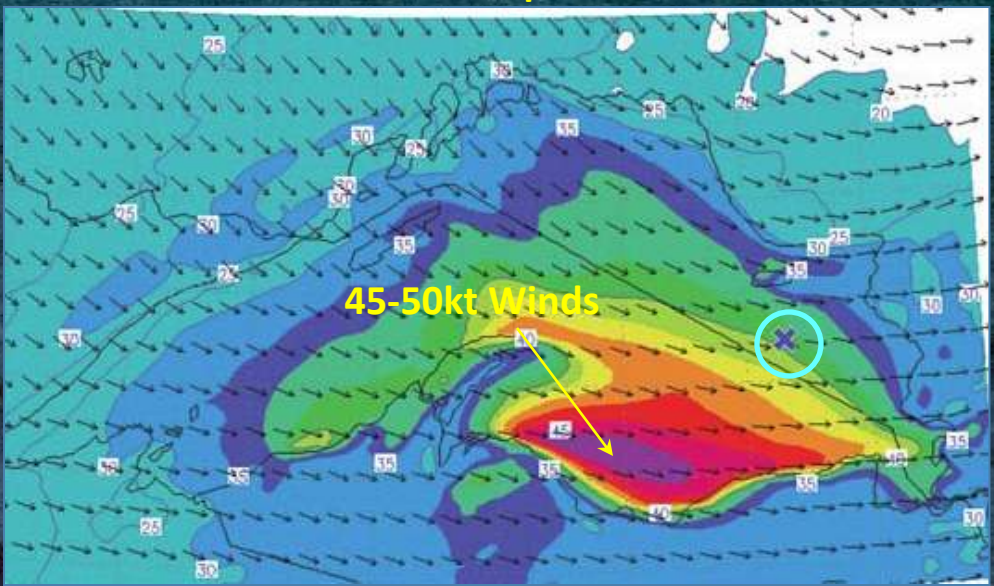
Great Storms of the Great Lakes: *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald: 10 November 1975*

Weather conditions during the afternoon and evening of 10 November: Surface Winds

100pm -- 10 November 1975



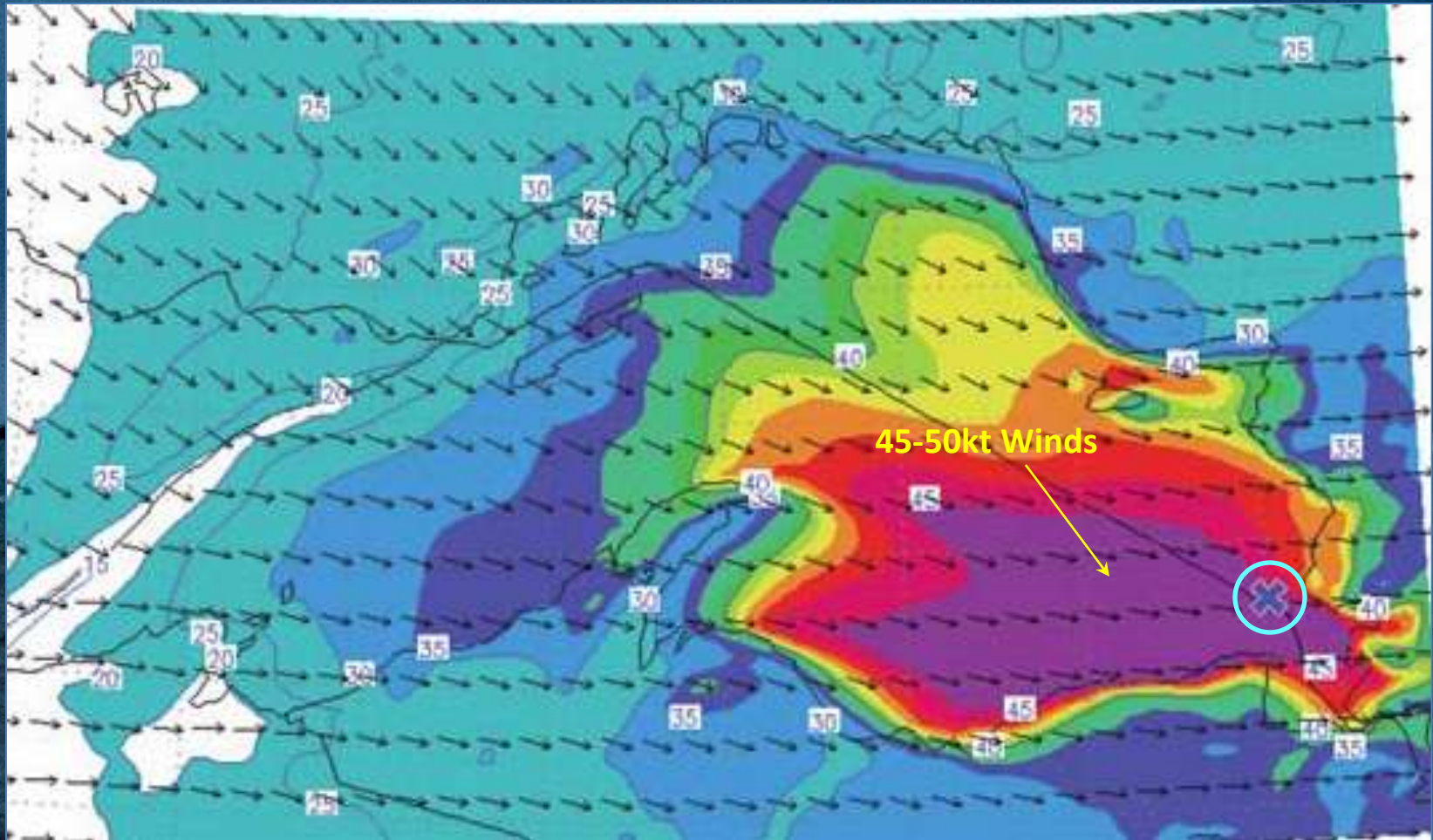
400pm -- 10 November 1975



Great Storms of the Great Lakes: *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald: 10 November 1975*

Weather conditions during the afternoon and evening of 10 November: Surface Winds

700pm -- 10 November 1975

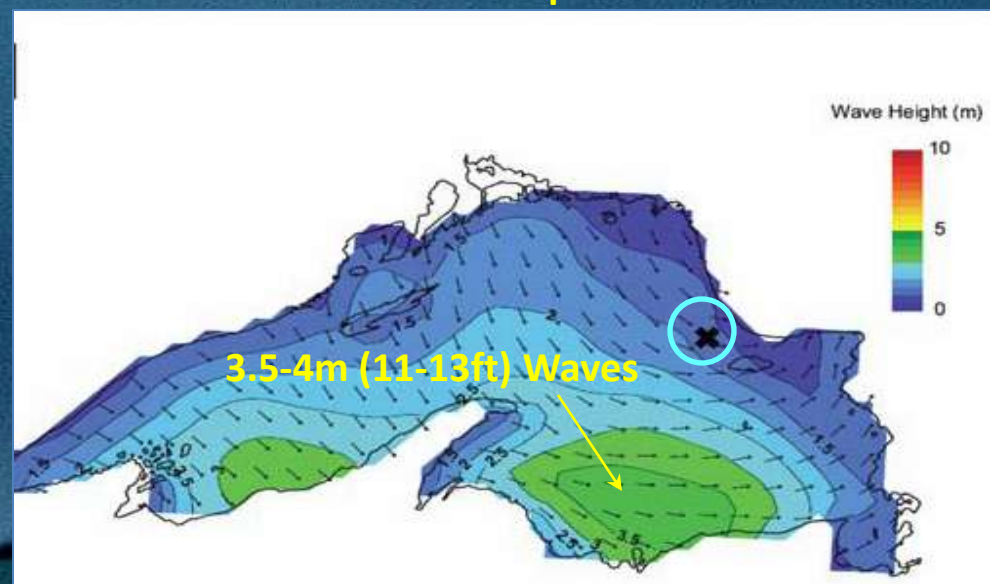


Arthur M. Anderson reports wind gusts of 75 knots (86mph) as it reaches area of *Fitzgerald* sinking.

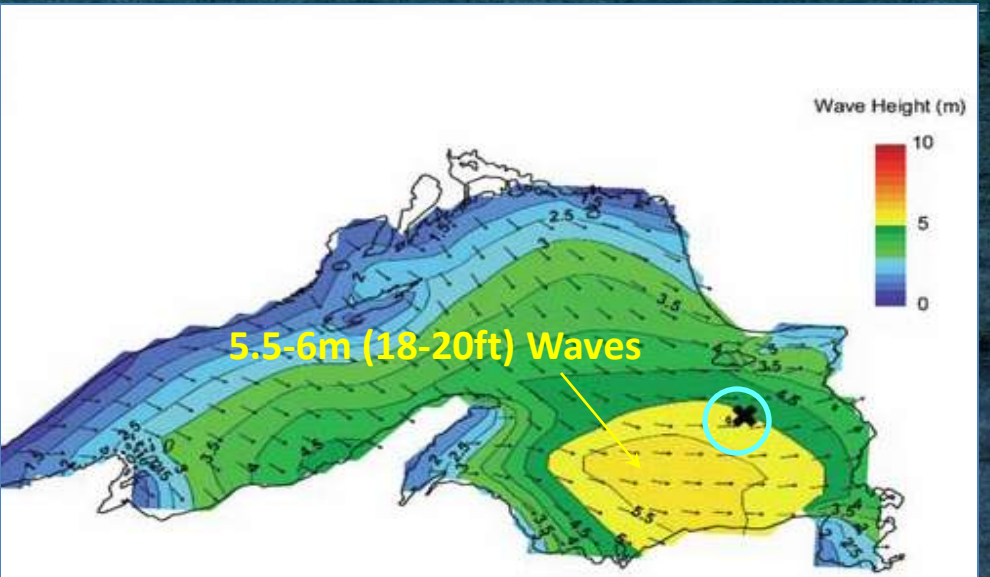
Great Storms of the Great Lakes: *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald: 10 November 1975*

Weather conditions during the afternoon and evening of 10 November: Wave Heights

100pm -- 10 November 1975



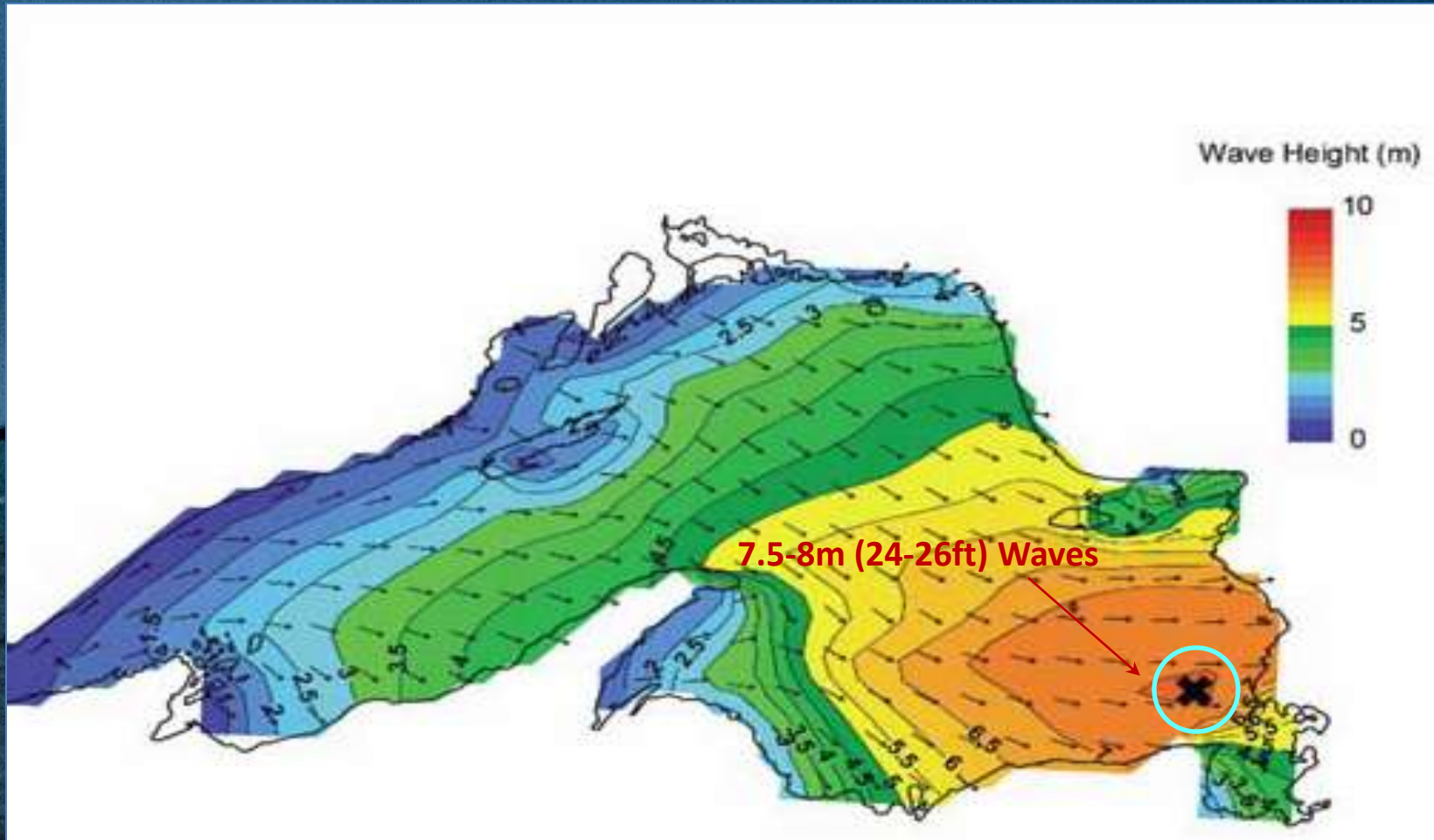
400pm -- 10 November 1975



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Weather conditions during the afternoon and evening of 10 November: Wave Heights

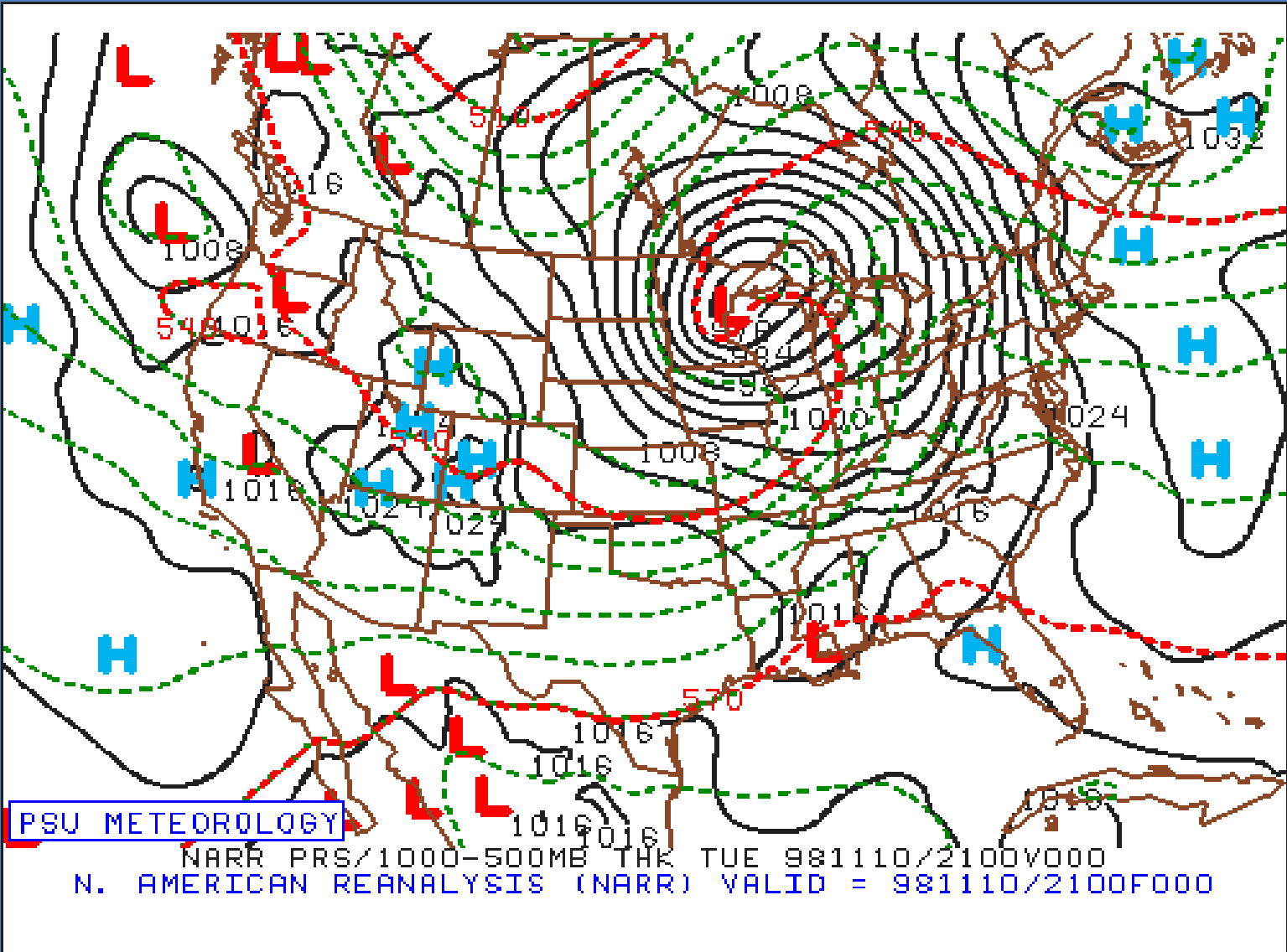
800pm -- 10 November 1975



Arthur M. Anderson reports wind gusts of 75 knots (86mph) as it reaches area of *Fitzgerald* sinking.

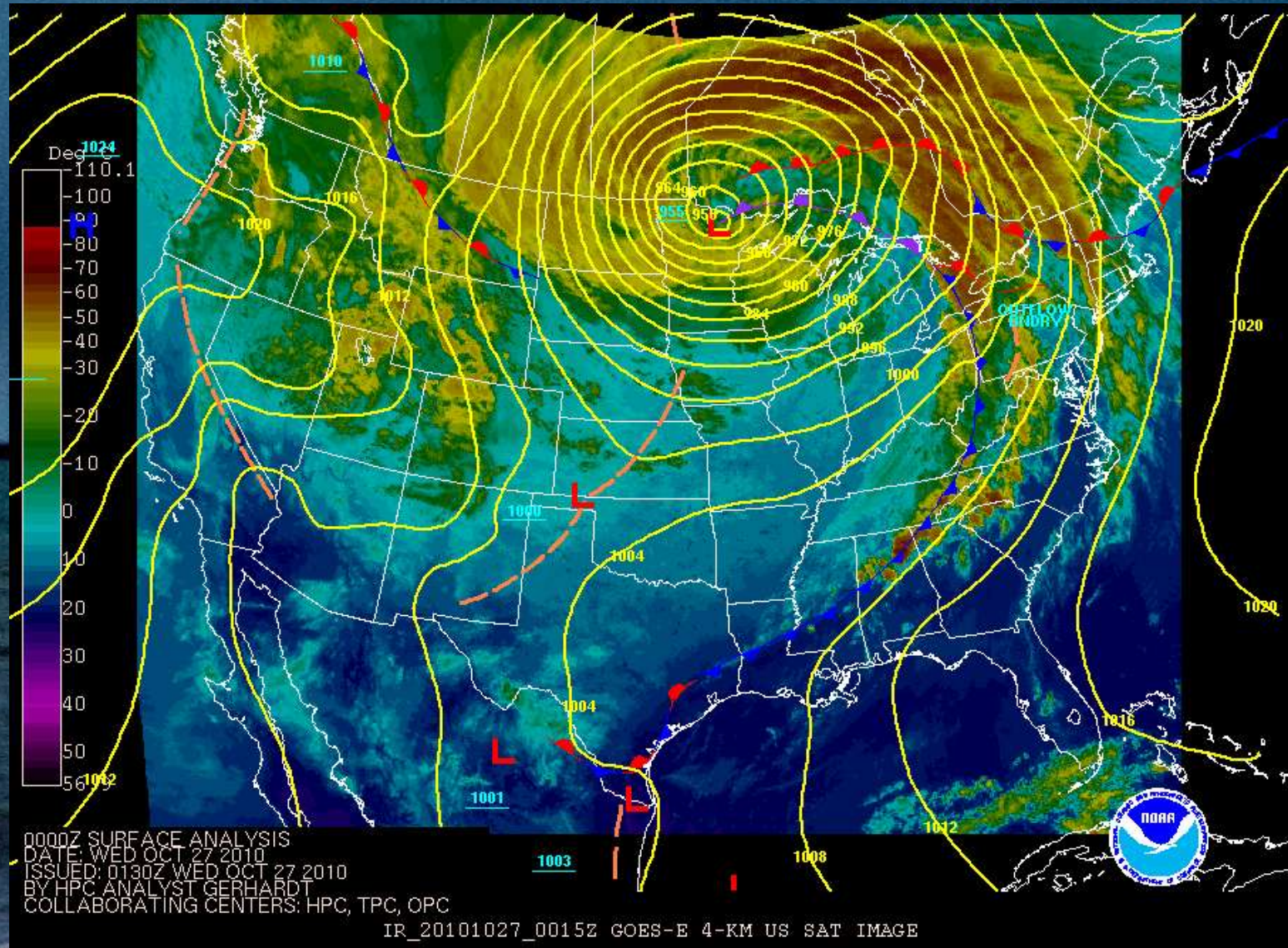
Great Storms of the Great Lakes: The "Edmund Fitzgerald 2" Storm: 10 November 1998

400pm -- 10 November 1998



Great Storms of the Great Lakes: The Great Lakes Storm of 2010: 26-27 October 2010

800pm -- 26 October 2010



Thank You

